

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Member of the Committee,

My name is Delean Goldsmith and I am a preschool teacher at the Torrington Child Care Center in Torrington, CT. I feel that state funded programs must continue to be funded.

I have been teaching preschool for the past two years after retiring from teaching public school in CT for 44 years. I have come to realize over the last two years how important a preschool education is to the successful completion of a K-12 education.

Torrington Child Care Center, as well as many other child care centers in CT, is accredited by NAEYC and offers parents a well-rounded, quality program. Our rigorous curriculum ensures that our students will be ready for kindergarten when they leave us.

Child care center teachers' salaries are very low when compared to those of public school teachers', even though early childhood teachers will be required to have an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education by 2020. Without the continuation of state funding to these centers, it will be difficult to attract quality teachers and to offer a well-rounded, accredited program to youngsters.

Without the continuation of state funding, low income families will be unable to afford to send their children to an accredited NAEYC child care center to receive the building blocks needed to ensure their children's success in school.

I implore you as a CTcertified, preschool educator to keep the state funded child day care center funding in tact.

Sincerely,

Delean K. Goldsmith
Preschool Teacher
Torrington Child Care Center
Torrington, CT 06790